

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 OC-05

CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 CU-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 FBO-02 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PC-01 /106 W

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R 231139Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6311

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

MACTHAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12082

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: PLANNED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION FOR JULY 4

SUMMARY: STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARE PLANNING AN "ANTI-AMERICAN IMPERIALISM WEEK" WHICH THEY HOPE TO CAP WITH A DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY JULY 4. ALTHOUGH THE ACTIVISTS ARE SERIOUS AND WELL FINANCED, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT PUBLIC SUPPORT THEY WILL GENERATE. THE ACTIVISTS ARE PLANNING ON A NATION-WIDE BASIS, SO THE CONSULATES MAY ALSO SHARE IN THE COMING EVENTS. THE RTG AND SOME SECTIONS OF THE MEDIA HAVE MANEUVERED TO DISTRACT PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM THE ACTIVISTS. OUR CONTINUING MILITARY DRAWDOWN UNDERCUTS THE DEMONSTRATION'S PLANNERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND WE HOPE NOT TO GIVE THEM A GOOD ISSUE BETWEEN NOW AND JULY

4. WE ARE IN CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE BANGKOK POLICE.
END SUMMARY.

I. BACKGROUND

1. ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) TRIED TO GIN UP AN ANTI-AMERICAN RALLY FOR 4 JULY 1974 (SEE BANGKOK 10900 OF 3 JULY 1974). THIS POORLY PLANNED EXERCISE COLLAPSED, DUE TO THE ANTI-POLICE RIOT WHICH ERUPTED IN THE PHLAPHLACHAI AREA OF BANGKOK (SEE BANGKOK 10933 OF 5 JULY AND 11038 OF 8 JULY 1974).

2. COORECTING THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST, THE NSCT HAS PUT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT INTO PLANNING AN "ANTI-AERICAN IMPERIALISM WEEK" FOR JULY 1-4 THIS YEAR. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED INCLUDE THE ANTI-DICTATORSHIP FRONT AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND. NO LABOR GROUPS HAVE SO FAR ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE DEMONSTRATION. THE NSCT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL SPEND A RESPECTABLE 150,000 BAHT (US\$7,500) ON THE PROJECT, AND ORGANIZED A FUND RAISING CONCERT JUNE 20. NEWSPAPERS REPORT THE ACTIVISTS PLAN TO HOLD SEMINARS AND POSTER EXHIBITS AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY, POSSIBLY CAPPING THE FESTIVITIES WITH A DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY JULY 4.

3. THE ACTIVISTS HAVE RECEIVED FAIRLY ADVERSE PUBLICITY FOR THEIR VENTURE IN RECENT DAYS. THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS HAS CHARGED THAT THE PROPOSED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION WILL BE AN EXCUSE FOR A LEFTIST COUP. THE THAI-LANGUAGE CONSERVATIVE TABLOID "BAN MUANG" HAS RUN ARTICLES SAYING THAT THE PUBLIC IS TIRED OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND HINTING THAT THE ORGANIZERS MAY BE TRAITORS.

4. THIS ADVERSE PUBLICITY HAS GIVEN THE PRIME MINISTER THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS THAT THE RTG WILL PERMIT PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS BUT WILL REACT TO VIOLENCE. THE NSCT LEADERSHIP HAS RESPONDED WITH REPEATED NEWS RELEASES THAT THE "ANTI-AMERICAN IMPERIALISM WEEK" WILL BE PEACEFUL.

5. LUKEWARM SUPPORT AT CHULALONGKON UNIVERSITY FOR THE
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ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION REPORTEDLY MAY CAUSE THE
CHULALONGKON STUDENT ORGANIZATION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE NSCT.

II. UP COUNTRY

6. THE ACTIVISTS PLAN NATION-WIDE DEMONSTRATIONS. THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND SEMINAR THAT VILLAGERS RECENTLY BROKE UP IN THE CHIANG MAI AREA WAS CALLED IN PART TO

PLAN FOR JULY 4 IN THAT AREA. THE SONGKHLA CONSUL SAID THAT THE UNIVERSITY IN THIS AREA WILL ALLOW STUDENTS EXCUSED ABSENCES ON JULY 4.

7. THE NEWSPAPERS REPORT JUNE 6 THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTER ISSUED AN ORDER TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS TO PROTECT FOREIGN LEGATIONS FROM PROTESTERS.

8. THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS PLANNING A COMMUNITY PARTY FOR ALL AMERICANS FAR FROM THE EMBASSY AT THE SOI 71 RECREATION CENTER. THE AMBASSADOR'S VIN D'HONNEUR WILL BE AT THE RESIDENCE THIS YEAR. WE ARE IN CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE BANGKOK POLICE.

9. COMMENT: OUR CONTINUING MILITARY DRAWDOWN UNDERCUTS THE DEMONSTRATION PLANNERS' BASIC THEME. UNLESS WE PRESENT THEM WITH A GOOD ISSUE BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 4, THE ACTIVISTS MAY FAIL IN DRUMMING UP WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT BUT THE ORGANIZERS OF THE AFFAIR CAN PROBABLY MOBILIZE SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS AS THINGS NOW STAND.
WHITEHOUSE

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